

Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission; Richard Peltz to be alternative Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission; that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the nominees; the nominees be confirmed; the motions to reconsider be laid on the table, any statements thereon be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD as if read, and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations were considered and confirmed, as follows:

Anne B. Pope, of Tennessee, to be Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Richard J. Peltz, of Pennsylvania, to be Alternative Federal Cochairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

NOMINATION OF JAMES M. LOY, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION FOR SECURITY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Commerce Committee be discharged from further consideration of the following nomination: James M. Loy, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security; that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the nomination; that the nomination be confirmed; the motion to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD as if read; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination was considered and confirmed, as follows:

James M. Loy, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Security for a term of five years.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING SECURITY, RECONCILIATION, AND PROSPERITY FOR ALL CYPRIOTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 539, S. Con. Res. 122.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 122) expressing the sense of the Congress that security, reconciliation, and prosperity for all Cypriots can be best achieved within the context of membership in the European Union, which will provide significant rights and obligations for all Cypriots, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble, as follows:

(Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts shown in italic.)

S. CON. RES. 122

[Whereas the status quo on Cyprus remains unacceptable;

Whereas a just and lasting resolution of the Cyprus problem, on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions, must safeguard the security and fundamental rights of all citizens of Cyprus, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots alike;

Whereas Cyprus is among the leading candidate countries for accession to the European Union, in recognition of its commitment to free markets, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas the European Union guarantees to all its citizens the indivisible universal values of human dignity (supporting fair and equal treatment of all), freedom (right to security, marriage, family, among others), equality (celebrating cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity), solidarity (protecting workers' rights and providing social security), citizens' rights (voting), and justice (holding a fair trial);

Whereas membership in the European Union will guarantee each citizen of Cyprus important legal, civil, and human rights, as well as the means and legal recourse necessary to secure the full application of these fundamental individual rights, and to promote the respect of cultural diversity and traditions;

Whereas membership in the European Union will bring significant benefits to both the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities, including new economic opportunities, access to new markets, a freer exchange of goods and services, balanced and sustainable development as well as the free movement of persons, goods, and services and capital;

Whereas the European Council in its Summit Conclusions of December 1999, in Helsinki, stated that "a political settlement [of the Cyprus problem] will facilitate the accession of Cyprus to the European Union . . . [i]f no settlement has been reached by the completion of accession negotiations, the Council's decision on accession will be made without the above being a precondition";

Whereas both the United States and the European Union in their summit statement on the New Transatlantic Agenda of June 14, 2001, pledge to continue to work together to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to achieve a comprehensive settlement with respect to Cyprus consistent with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and to continue to work toward the resumption of talks;

Whereas resolution of the Cyprus problem is in the strategic interests of the United States, given the important location of Cyprus at the crossroads of Europe, Africa, and Asia; and

Whereas resolution of the Cyprus problem is also consistent with American values, as enshrined in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: Now, therefore, be it

Whereas the current status quo on Cyprus remains unacceptable and the reunification of Cyprus remains a desirable foreign policy objective;

Whereas a just and lasting resolution of the Cyprus problem, in full consideration of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties, must safeguard the security and fundamental rights of the population of Cyprus, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots alike;

Whereas Cyprus is among the leading candidate countries for accession to the European Union, in recognition of its commitment to free markets, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas the European Union guarantees to all its citizens the indivisible universal values of human dignity (supporting fair and equal treatment of all), freedom (right to security, marriage, family, among others), equality (celebrating cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity), solidarity (protecting workers' rights

and providing social security), citizens' rights (voting), and justice (holding a fair trial);

Whereas membership in the European Union will guarantee each citizen of the Republic of Cyprus important legal, civil, and human rights, as well as the means and legal recourse necessary to secure the full application of these fundamental individual rights, and to promote the respect of cultural diversity and traditions;

Whereas membership in the European Union will bring significant benefits to both Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, including new economic opportunities, access to new markets, a freer exchange of goods and services, balanced and sustainable development as well as the free movement of persons, goods, and services and capital;

Whereas the European Council in its Summit Conclusions of December 1999, in Helsinki, stated that "a political settlement [of the Cyprus problem] will facilitate the accession of Cyprus to the European Union . . . [i]f no settlement has been reached by the completion of accession negotiations, the Council's decision on accession will be made without the above being a precondition . . . [i]n this the Council will take account of all relevant factors";

Whereas both the United States and the European Union in their summit statement on the New Transatlantic Agenda of June 14, 2001, pledge to continue to work together to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to achieve a comprehensive settlement with respect to Cyprus in full consideration of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties;

Whereas the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leadership began direct talks on January 16, 2002, with the United Nations Special Advisor in attendance and the European Council at the Seville Conference in June 2002 called on the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to intensify and expedite their talks in order to seize the unique opportunity to reach a comprehensive settlement; and

Whereas resolution of the Cyprus problem is also consistent with American values, as enshrined in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), [That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the unacceptable status quo on Cyprus must be ended and the island and its people be reunited, in a bizonal, bicomunal federal Cyprus, on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions;

(2) the accession of Cyprus to the European Union would act as a catalyst for the solution of the Cyprus problem without the latter being a precondition for accession;

(3) membership of Cyprus to the European Union should be strongly supported;

(4) all Cypriots be urged to support and encourage efforts to bring Cyprus into the European Union; and

(5) the various agencies of the United States Government should pursue vigorously and as an issue of high and urgent priority new initiatives that will help promote and achieve reunification, reconciliation, stability, and prosperity on Cyprus.]

That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the current status quo on Cyprus must be ended and the island and its people be reunited, in a bizonal, bicomunal federal Cyprus, with full consideration of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties;

(2) the direct and intensive negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, which began in January 2002, and which are continuing on a regular basis, have been most welcome and are encouraged to continue until a comprehensive settlement has been achieved;

(3) while a successful resolution of the Cyprus problem would facilitate the accession of Cyprus

to the European Union, in the absence of such a resolution, the accession of Cyprus to the European Union could act as a further catalyst for the solution of the Cyprus problem without the latter being a precondition for accession and with all relevant factors being considered;

(4) membership of the Republic of Cyprus in the European Union should be strongly supported;

(5) all Cypriots be urged to support and encourage efforts to bring the Republic of Cyprus into the European Union; and

(6) the various agencies of the United States Government in support of United Nations efforts to facilitate a settlement should pursue as an issue of high priority new initiatives that will help promote and achieve reunification, reconciliation, stability, and prosperity on Cyprus.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment to the concurrent resolution be agreed to; the concurrent resolution be agreed to, as amended; the amendment to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 122), as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment to the preamble was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, as amended, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. CON. RES. 122

Whereas the current status quo on Cyprus remains unacceptable and the reunification of Cyprus remains a desirable foreign policy objective;

Whereas a just and lasting resolution of the Cyprus problem, in full consideration of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties, must safeguard the security and fundamental rights of the population of Cyprus, Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots alike;

Whereas Cyprus is among the leading candidate countries for accession to the European Union, in recognition of its commitment to free markets, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law;

Whereas the European Union guarantees to all its citizens the indivisible universal values of human dignity (supporting fair and equal treatment of all), freedom (right to security, marriage, family, among others), equality (celebrating cultural, religious, and linguistic diversity), solidarity (protecting workers' rights and providing social security), citizens' rights (voting), and justice (holding a fair trial);

Whereas membership in the European Union will guarantee each citizen of the Republic of Cyprus important legal, civil, and human rights, as well as the means and legal recourse necessary to secure the full application of these fundamental individual rights, and to promote the respect of cultural diversity and traditions;

Whereas membership in the European Union will bring significant benefits to both Greek-Cypriots and Turkish-Cypriots, including new economic opportunities, access to new markets, a freer exchange of goods and services, balanced and sustainable development as well as the free movement of persons, goods, and services and capital;

Whereas the European Council in its Summit Conclusions of December 1999, in Helsinki, stated that "a political settlement [of the Cyprus problem] will facilitate the accession of Cyprus to the European Union . . . [I]f no settlement has been reached by the completion of accession negotiations, the Council's decision on accession will be made without the above being a precondition . . . [i]n this the Council will take account of all relevant factors";

Whereas both the United States and the European Union in their summit statement on the New Transatlantic Agenda of June 14, 2001, pledge to continue to work together to support the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to achieve a comprehensive settlement with respect to Cyprus in full consideration of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties;

Whereas the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leadership began direct talks on January 16, 2002, with the United Nations Special Advisor in attendance and the European Council at the Seville Conference in June 2002 called on the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to intensify and expedite their talks in order to seize the unique opportunity to reach a comprehensive settlement; and

Whereas resolution of the Cyprus problem is also consistent with American values, as enshrined in the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, which guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the current status quo on Cyprus must be ended and the island and its people be reunited, in a bizonal, bicomunal federal Cyprus, with full consideration of United Nations Security Council resolutions and international treaties;

(2) the direct and intensive negotiations between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders, which began in January 2002, and which are continuing on a regular basis, have been most welcome and are encouraged to continue until a comprehensive settlement has been achieved;

(3) while a successful resolution of the Cyprus problem would facilitate the accession of Cyprus to the European Union, in the absence of such a resolution, the accession of Cyprus to the European Union could act as a further catalyst for the solution of the Cyprus problem without the latter being a precondition for accession and with all relevant factors being considered;

(4) membership of the Republic of Cyprus in the European Union should be strongly supported;

(5) all Cypriots be urged to support and encourage efforts to bring the Republic of Cyprus into the European Union; and

(6) the various agencies of the United States Government in support of United Nations efforts to facilitate a settlement should pursue as an issue of high priority new initiatives that will help promote and achieve reunification, reconciliation, stability, and prosperity on Cyprus.

VETERANS BENEFITS ACT OF 2002

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair lay before the Senate a message from the House of Representatives on the bill (S. 2237) to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and improve authorities relating to compensation and pension benefits, education benefits, housing benefits, and other benefits for veterans, to improve

the administration of benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 2237) entitled "An Act to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify and improve authorities relating to compensation and pension benefits, education benefits, housing benefits, and other benefits for veterans, to improve the administration of benefits for veterans, and for other purposes", do pass with the following amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) *SHORT TITLE*.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Benefits Act of 2002".

(b) *TABLE OF CONTENTS*.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. References to title 38, United States Code.

TITLE I—COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS IMPROVEMENTS

Sec. 101. Retention of CHAMPVA for surviving spouses remarrying after age 55.

Sec. 102. Clarification of entitlement to special monthly compensation for women veterans who have service-connected loss of breast tissue.

Sec. 103. Specification of hearing loss required for compensation for hearing loss in paired organs.

Sec. 104. Assessment of acoustic trauma associated with military service from World War II to present.

TITLE II—MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

Sec. 201. Prohibition on certain additional benefits for persons committing capital crimes.

Sec. 202. Procedures for disqualification of persons committing capital crimes for interment or memorialization in national cemeteries.

Sec. 203. Application of Department of Veterans Affairs benefit for Government markers for marked graves of veterans at private cemeteries to veterans dying on or after September 11, 2001.

Sec. 204. Authorization of placement of a memorial in Arlington National Cemetery honoring World War II veterans who fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

TITLE III—OTHER MATTERS

Sec. 301. Increase in aggregate annual amount available for State approving agencies for administrative expenses for fiscal years 2003 through 2007.

Sec. 302. Authority for Veterans' Mortgage Life Insurance to be carried beyond age 70.

Sec. 303. Authority to guarantee hybrid adjustable rate mortgages.

Sec. 304. Increase in amount payable as Medal of Honor special pension.

Sec. 305. Extension of protections under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 to National Guard members called to active duty under title 32, United States Code.

Sec. 306. Extension of income verification authority.

Sec. 307. Fee for loan assumption.

Sec. 308. Technical and clarifying amendments.

Sec. 309. Codification of cost-of-living adjustment provided in Public Law 107-247.

TITLE IV—JUDICIAL MATTERS

Sec. 401. Standard for reversal by Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims of erroneous finding of fact by Board of Veterans' Appeals.